

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2808

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3718

E.O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 1980

TAGS: MASS MO

SUBJECT: FAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM - MOROCCO

REF: STATE 169516

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. (C) I AM BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISTURBED OVER WHAT APPEARS TO BE A PERSISTENT AND INEXPLICABLE COMMUNICATIONS GAP. I FEEL THAT SOMEHOW WE MUST BE FAILING TO CONVEY TO YOU THAT THE REQUESTED TRAINING SURVEY TEAM IS THE ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP IN PROCESS OF FLUSHING OUT THE VERY INFORMATION YOU ARE REQUESTING. YOU ALREADY HAVE COPY OF GOM LETTER OF INTENT STATING "HOW GOM INTENDS PROCEED IN MEETING TOTAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS". THAT LETTER IS THE LAST STEP BEFORE "COMPLETE BLUEPRINT OF FURTHER PROCUREMENT PLANS" (REFTEL). REVIEW OF ITS CONTENT WILL CLEARLY REVEAL THAT MOROCCANS FEEL TIME FOR GENERALIZATION HAS PASSED. FURTHER DISCUSSION IN THESE GENERAL TERMS IS REDUNDANT.

2. (C) THE ONLY REASON THAT ANY PURCHASES AND/OR REQUESTS HAVE PRECEDED COMPLETION OF THE SURVEY IS THAT KING WANTED EARLY, OUTWARD DEMONSTRATION OF USG-GOM COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF HIS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. PRECISE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING MUST NOW BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE PROCEEDING
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FURTHER. ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT WE AVOID HELTER-SKELTER

DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH MOROCCAN FORCES NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT OR OPERATE. ONLY WAY TO INSURE AGAINST THIS IS EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL PATHS. THESE PATHS MAY LIE IN EITHER PERSONNEL TRAINING LEAD TIMES OR EQUIPMENT DELIVERY LEAD TIMES OR BOTH. OUR PROBLEMS (U.S.) ARE OBVIOUSLY IN EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY WHILE TRAINING LEAD TIMES ARE ESSENTIALLY GOM'S PROBLEM. THEREFORE WE BELIEVE IT TACTICALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE TEAM COME HERE TO PROGRAM THE TRAINING AND IDENTIFY CRITICAL PATHS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAINING WHICH IS A MOROCCAN PROBLEM. THIS PROGRAMMING COULD BE BASED UPON WHATEVER LEAD TIME IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE VARIOUS MAJOR WEAPONS COMPONENTS. AS THESE LEAD TIMES EVOLVE IN THE PROCESS OF PROGRAMMING THE TRAINING, ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT CAN BE SELECTED IF AVAILABLE OR THE MOROCCANS CAN TURN TO OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY. IN ANY EVENT, THEY WILL THEN NOT HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY US.

4. (C) AS WAS PREVIOUSLY STATED, MUSLO NOT MANNED TO ADEQUATELY PERFORM THIS SURVEY AND QUITE FRANKLY MOROCCANS NOT CAPABLE OF THE TYPE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING NECESSARY TO CARRY OFF A PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE IN CONCERT WITH DOD LOGISTICAL SYSTEM. THE MOROCCANS REFER TO PARTAIN REPORT AND SAY THAT THE PROGRAM THEY WANT IS THERE. THE PARTAIN REPORT IS AT BEST A PLAN (OR AN APPRAISAL OF THEIR PLAN) WITH SOME EXCERPTS FROM PRICE AND AVAILABILITY CATALOGUES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT AND A CONCEPT OF TRAINING. THE CONCEPT, HOWEVER, REMAINS VALID AND MANDATORILY COMMENCES WITH A SURVEY OF MOROCCAN CAPABILITY AND RESOURCES.

5. (C) MOROCCANS FEEL THEY ARE FOLLOWING COURSE ESTABLISHED IN VISITS OF SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM. GIVEN DELAYS THAT HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED IN OBTAINING TRAINING SURVEY TEAM AND PREPARING FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES HERE, WE MUST MOVE DECISIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY OR GIVE GOM IMPRESSION WE ARE EITHER DELIBERATELY STALLING FOR TIME OR ATTEMPTING TO WITHDRAW OUR SUPPORT. SINCE ASSURANCES OF OUR SUPPORT WERE CONVEYED AT HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS, ANY SUSPICION THAT WE ARE RENEGING AT THIS POINT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR MOROCCANS TO UNDERSTAND. IT WOULD REQUIRE CLARIFICATION AT SIMILARLY HIGH LEVEL AS TO WHERE
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OUR EFFORTS HAVE GONE WRONG. SURELY THIS IS UNNECESSARY. THE POLICY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED; WHAT REMAINS NOW IS TO IMPLEMENT IT.
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